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## Needlepoint - from Start to FINISH (but never again)

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*University of Mississippi*

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## **Staff Creative Residencies Summer 2024 Self-Assessment**

### **Needlepoint - from Start to FINISH (but never again)**

**Cayce Read, Financial Aid Advisor in the Office of Financial Aid, learned the process of finishing a stitched needlework canvas into a final product.**



I traveled to Montgomery, AL, for 2 days to attend a finishing class (stipend was spent on gas, lodging, and class fees). While I enjoyed it, it helped me realize my talents lie in needlepointing, not finishing! I am confident in my needlepointing skills and will be teaching some classes in the near future; however, I found the finishing to be frustrating and was heartbroken at the mess I feel I made of my beautifully stitched canvas.

More importantly, I learned that my hobby is worth making time for. I have never considered taking leave from work to needlepoint and found having a week to focus solely on my craft to be an absolute luxury. Wanting to be a good steward of the Staff Creative Residency, I spent 8 hours a day needlepointing when not traveling or in class that week. I have now given myself permission to take time from work to do nothing but needlepoint every now and then while committing a minimum of one hour per day to my craft. I find this to be a productive and indulgent way to unwind at the end of the day.

My future consists of even more needlepoint (many purchases were made in AL!) and plans to leave the finishing to the pros. The art of needlework is a community endeavor consisting of the artists who hand paint the

canvases, the ones who do the stitching and the craftsmen who know how to execute a flawless finish. My role in this is the stitching, which I adore and am actually pretty good at.

Thank you for this opportunity, an experience like none other!

Note: Read was a Data Analyst for the Office of Financial Aid when the residency began.





The POINT of it all!